

In the Abstract

Please substitute the following amended Abstract for the Abstract as currently pending (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

The surface of a moulding tool ~~[[ (9) ]]~~, for receiving a first aircraft component, for example a spar ~~[[ (3) ]]~~, is shaped to correspond to the surface of a second aircraft component, for example a wing skin ~~[[ (5) ]]~~. A gap is defined between the tool ~~[[ (9) ]]~~ and the first component. Resin is drawn into the gap by a suction pump. The resin fills the gap and cures to form a shim ~~[[ (6) ]]~~. The first and second components, which are in the form of composite material structures, are then joined together without any significant voids being formed therebetween.